

Keeping children lead-free

Chips and dust from lead paint are poison.

- Many paints used lead before 1978.
- Lead does not “wash away” or “wear off”— it stays forever.

Keeping children away

- Children get poisoned by eating paint chips or dust.
- Put furniture or other barriers in front of peeling areas.
- Cover flaking areas (like around windows) with duct tape.

Cleaning

- Don’t scrape, sand or burn off lead paint. It takes a specialist.
- Use warm water with TSP to clean up lead dust.
- Wipe up with a sponge, rag or mop.

Getting help if your child eats lead paint

- Talk with your doctor.
- Call the Health Department at 222-2312.
- Call the R.I. Poison Control Center at 444-5727.

Safe and Healthy Communities

Spring 1999

A Department of Health advisory for Rhode Island Cities and Towns

Springtime means the end of the flu season, but the start of other seasonal health concerns. Following these suggestions can make Springtime a safe and healthy time for everyone in your community.

Get rid of pests

Mosquitoes
Rats
Rabies
Ticks

Playing safely

Bicycling
Walking
Playground safety

Keeping children lead-free

Chipping paint
Lead dust
Getting help

Get rid of pests

Mosquitoes

- Mosquitoes can carry diseases like encephalitis (EEE).
- Mosquitoes breed in standing water, like old tires, bird baths, and empty cans.
- Keep emptying pool covers, plastic tarps and things that collect water.
- Cover or turn discarded containers upside-down.

Rats, raccoons, and skunks

- These animals live on garbage and trash.
- Use your garbage disposal whenever possible.
- Use tight lids on trash cans.
- Don't put your trash out in plastic bags the night before collection – use trash cans.
- Fix drain covers and close up areas (porches, stairs) where rats can nest.

Rabies

- Dogs, cats, raccoons, skunks, bats, and other animals carry rabies.
- Rabies virus comes from animal saliva; avoid bites.
- Don't let pets run free – use a leash.
- Get your own dog or cat vaccinated.
- Keep the number of your animal control officer handy and report strays.
- Avoid contact with strays or unfamiliar animals.
- Report animal bites to your doctor.

Ticks

- Ticks carry Lyme disease.
- Wear long sleeved shirts, socks and long pants in fields and wooded areas.
- Use insect repellent when out of doors.
- Look for and promptly remove ticks from your skin.
- Report a circular, red rash to your doctor.

Playing safely

Bicycles

- Bicycles are the second leading cause of injuries to children.
- Bicycle crashes cause head injuries. Wear a helmet. Buckle the strap.
- Ride with traffic on the right side (not against the traffic).
- Use a light and reflective gear at night.

Walking

- Walking around busy streets can be dangerous for children and elderly folks.
- Cross only at cross-walks.
- Observe traffic and pedestrian signals.
- Use a light and reflective gear at night.

Playgrounds

- Choking and falls cause most playground injuries.
- Remove hoods and drawstrings from children's clothing.
- Remove necklaces, scarves, purses – anything from around kids' necks.
- Use wood chips, mulch, sand or pea gravel under playground equipment. Asphalt, packed dirt and other hard surfaces cause injuries.